

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JSEYMOUR/LVA
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS STATE 061087

FOR KAHANE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN WARSAW

REF: KAHANE-SCHMIDT TELECON

PER YOUR REQUEST, HERE ARE THE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY A
DISSIDENT GROUP AND THE TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S WRITTEN
REPLIES: BEGIN TEXT:

Q: DO YOU THINK, MR PRESIDENT, THAT THE BELGRADE MEETING
CAN AND SHOULD CREATE A SYSTEM OF PERMANENT MONITORING
OF THE REALIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN EUROPE, AMONG OTHER
WAYS, THROUGH THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL BODY SUPER-
VISING COMPLIANCE WITH DECISIONS WHICH WERE CODIFIED IN THE
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE U.N. AND WHICH
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GOVERNMENTS OBLIGED THEMSELVES TO COMPLY WITH IN THE FINAL
ACT OF THE C.S.C.E. CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI?

A: WHILE THE U.S. IS IN FAVOR OF MONITORING THE FULFILL-
MENT OF OBLIGATIONS ACCEPTED IN HELSINKI, WE ARE SKEPTICAL
THAT THE CREATION OF A PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL BODY IS THE
BEST WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THAT GOAL. WE BELIEVE THAT THE

REVIEW CONFERENCE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN BELGRADE SERVES THIS PURPOSE, AND THE HOLDING OF SIMILAR PERIODIC CONFER-

ENCES WOULD PERHAPS BE THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH THE IMPLICATION OF HELSINKI OBLIGATIONS.

Q: IF MOVEMENTS AND PARTIES INDEPENDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF POLAND BEGAN TO ENGAGE IN ACTIVITY IN POLAND, WOULD THAT, IN THE PRESIDENT'S OPINION, HAVE INFLUENCE ON THE POLICY OF DETENTE IN EUROPE -- AND IF SO, WHAT SORT?

A: I THINK IT INAPPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMENT ON THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY. I DO, HOWEVER, ALSO FEEL THAT DETENTE MUST INVOLVE NOT ONLY GOVERNMENTS BUT MUST ALSO BE SUPPORTED AND ENCOURAGED BY NON-OFFICIAL INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS.

Q: THE US, AS WELL AS POLAND, RATIFIED THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. DOES THAT MEAN, IN THE OPINION OF THE PRESIDENT, THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES UNDERTOOK THESE OBLIGATIONS MUTUALLY, FORESEEING THAT NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONVENTIONS BY ONE SIDE IN THE AREA OF ITS JURISDICTION JUSTIFIES A PRONOUNCEMENT OF THE OTHER SIDE DEMANDING THE FULFILLMENT OF THAT OBLIGATION?

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A: THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS A MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT, AND IT DOES NOT BECOME A BILATERAL OBLIGATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WHEN BOTH HAVE RATIFIED IT. WHILE IT WOULD THUS BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR ONE COUNTRY FORMALLY TO DEMAND THAT ANOTHER FULFILL OBLIGATIONS OF THAT AGREEMENT, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR ONE SIGNATORY OF THAT AGREEMENT TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE VIOLATIONS OF ANOTHER. END QUOTE.

THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO YOUR PASSING THIS TO THE BRITISH MP WHO REQUESTED IT, OR OTHER OFFICIALS. VANCE

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